

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2382

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

/AMEMBASSY VIENNA 388

USMISSION BERLIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THE HAGUE 5046

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, GW, NL, UK

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: PAA CONNECTING FLIGHTS LONDON-AMSTERDAM-
BERLIN

REF: HAGUE 4999 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: CIVILAIR HAS CLEARED PAA CHANGE OF GAUGE ON FLIGHT 54-55 IN LONDON USING BOEING 727 AIRCRAFT ALREADY FLYING BERLIN-AMSTERDAM. IN CONNECTION WITH THIS MATTER, CIVILAIR EXPRESSED HOPE THAT KLM WOULD NOT BE SUBJECTED TO PRESSURE FROM US SIDE TO REDUCE FREQUENCY OF FLIGHTS TO US BECAUSE OF FUEL SHORTAGE. END SUMMARY.

1. DILLARD OF PAA TOOK UP WITH ADRIANI OF CIVILAIR MATTER OF EXTENDING DAILY 727 FLIGHT FROM BERLIN TO LONDON UNDER FLIGHT NO. 54-55 IN ORDER TO REPLACE 707 AIRCRAFT ON LONDON-AMSTERDAM LEG OF DAILY SERVICE AND THUS SAVE FUEL. AFTER CONSIDERATION OF MATTER, ADRIANI INFORMED PAA THAT CIVILAIR WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH THIS SUBSTITUTION UNDER PRESENT
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CIRCUMSTANCES.

2. AT SAME TIME ADRIANI ASKED PAA IN EXCHANGE TO PASS WORD TO CAB THAT IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF NO PRESSURE WOULD BE BROUGHT ON KLM TO REDUCE ITS TRANSATLANTIC SCHEDULES TO THE US BECAUSE OF FUEL SHORTAGE.

3. DILLARD POINTED OUT TO EMBASSY THAT PAA IS SPEARHEADING TALKS, RECENTLY AUTHORIZED BY CAB, WITH OTHER TRANSATLANTIC CARRIERS TO REACH AGREEMENT TO REDUCE SERVICES BECAUSE OF FUEL SHORTAGE. HE CITED PRESS REPORT THAT BRITISH AIRWAYS, AIR FRANCE, LUFTHANSA AND ALITALIA HAVE INDICATED INTEREST IN DISCUSSING MUTUAL REDUCTION OF TRANSATLANTIC SCHEDULES, COMBINATION OF ROUTES, OR OTHER FUEL-SAVING ARRANGEMENTS. HE OBSERVED THAT KLM SEEMS UNINTERESTED IN REDUCING ITS SERVICE AT THIS TIME AND APPEARS TO BE TAKING FUEL SHORTAGE LIGHTLY.

4. DILLARD STATED THAT PAA'S PRESENT PLANS CALL FOR INITIATION OF 727 FLIGHTS TO LONDON ON DECEMBER 2. MEANWHILE, 707 CONNECTION WITH LONDON HAS BEEN DISCONTINUED FOR SEVERAL DAYS BECAUSE OF FUEL SHORTAGE. IN ADDITION NON-STOP NEW YORK-AMSTERDAM DAILY FLIGHT 92-93 IS BEING COMBINED WITH BRUSSELS FLIGHTS STARTING NOV 21 IN SUCH A WAY THAT AMSTERDAM, BRUSSELS AND VIENNA WILL RECEIVE LESS THAN DAILY SERVICE (WITH 707S) FOR TIME BEING. ON THE OTHER HAND KLM MAINTAINS TWO DAILY NON-STOP TO NEW YORK, ONE TO CHICAGO, AND FIVE PER WEEK TO HOUSTON WITH WIDE-BODIED JETS, ALTHOUGH AMSTERDAM-NY LOAD FACTORS REPORTEDLY LIE IN 45-50 PERCENT RANGE.

5. COMMENT: CIVILAIR AND KLM APPEAR TO BE TRYING TO FORESTALL POSSIBILITY THAT CAB AND PAA MAY USE FUEL SHORTAGE TO GET KLM TO CUT BACK ITS CAPACITY UNILATERALLY AS WE ENDEAVORED TO DO IN BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS A YEAR AGO. ON THE OTHER HAND, DILLARD'S ASSESSMENT THAT KLM IS TAKING FUEL SHORTAGE LIGHTLY IS INCONSISTENT WITH COMMENT MADE TO ECON COUNSELOR BY KLM DEPUTY PRESIDENT DE SOET (HAGUE 4962). WE BELIEVE THAT KLM WILL AGREE TO (AND PERHAPS WELCOME) MUTUAL CUTBACKS AS LONG AS THEIR RELATIVE POSITION REMAINS UNIMPAIRED.
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